

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 759

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Alan Tatum of White County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Alan Tatum; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tatum was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tatum served with acumen and alacrity as the owner of Payless Family Pharmacy in Sparta, the capstone of his devoted service as a pharmacist of the highest ability and integrity, yet merely one facet of his life of service to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, born on August 27, 1952, in Chicago, Illinois, Alan Tatum was the son of Bill Tatum and the late Anne Carroll Tatum; though he began his high school career as a student at Proviso East High School in Chicago, he graduated from Kenton High School in Kenton, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tatum continued his education at the University of Tennessee, Martin, and graduated with high honors from the University of Tennessee School of Pharmacy in Memphis in 1977, thereafter accepting a position as the first full-time pharmacist for the old White County Hospital; when the hospital moved to its new location, he took on an additional job as director of the White County Ambulance Service; and

WHEREAS, though Dr. Alan Tatum was transferred to a position in Fulton, Kentucky, he longed to return to the hills of Middle Tennessee; he and his wife and family moved back to Tennessee in 1980, settling in Cookeville, and he took a position at an independent pharmacy located in the Cookeville Mall; and

WHEREAS, his career trajectory took him next to Cookeville Hospital, where he served as a staff pharmacist; then Wal-Mart Pharmacy, where he was the pharmacy manager; and, ultimately, to his own independent pharmacy, Payless Family Pharmacy on Bockman Way, which he opened in December 1993; and

WHEREAS, Payless Family Pharmacy has been named Pharmacy of the Year in White County for several years, and Dr. Tatum himself was recognized as Pharmacist of the Year; he also garnered the honor of Innovative Pharmacist of the Year from the Tennessee Pharmacists Association; and

WHEREAS, devoted to serving his field in various capacities, Dr. Alan Tatum served as president of the Upper Cumberland Pharmacy Association for fourteen years; retired as an adjunct professor at Tennessee Technological University (TTU), where he taught pharmacology to nursing students; established the Anne Tatum Scholarship at TTU in honor of his mother; and lobbied on behalf of White County residents and pharmacy in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service as a member of his profession, Dr. Tatum served his community as a member of the Genesis House Board of Directors; the PBS affiliate WCTE's Board of Directors; the White County Health Council; the Cookeville Jaycees; the Sparta Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow; the Cookeville Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder; and the White County and Putnam County Animal Shelters; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife, Joyce Tatum, engaged in many service projects together, including work on Native American Indian reservations in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and North Carolina; volunteer efforts in response to wildfires in Sevierville and Gatlinburg; and various mission trips throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tatum also traveled the world as a member of the Mastersingers, singing in such places as Austria, the Czech Republic, France, and Germany; he sang on the beach in Normandy during a D-Day celebration, and he was slated to sing at Carnegie Hall in May of this year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alan Tatum was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tatum enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of more than forty-six years, Joyce Milligan Tatum, and was the proud father of Jeremy Tatum, Jennifer Cranford, and Tiffany Wagner and the doting grandparent of Jonathan Cranford, Drake Tatum, Gavin Tatum, Lily Tatum, James "J.J." Wagner, and Jacob Wagner; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren, Dr. Alan Tatum is survived by his father, Bill Tatum; his brothers, Brian and Billy; his sisters, Mary Anne, Audrey, and Andrea; and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alan Tatum leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Alan Tatum, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Tatum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.